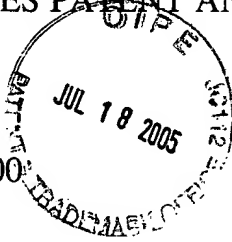


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit :
Examiner :
Serial No. : 09/701,203
Filed : November 27, 2000
Inventors : Markus Kalkum
: Martin Müller
: Eckhard Nordhoff
: Holger Eickhoff
: Holger Rauth
: Richard Reinhardt
Title : METHOD AND DEVICE FOR
: PROCESSING EXTREMELY
: SMALL SUBSTANCE QUANTITIES



36th Floor
1600 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Docket: 1539-00

Dated: December 6, 2000

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to action on the merits, we respectfully request consideration of the following amendments and remarks.

In the Specification

On page 1, between lines 2 and 3, please insert --FIELD OF THE INVENTION--;
and

between lines 8 and 9, please insert --BACKGROUND--.

On page 4, line 15, please change "the", first occurrence, to --accordingly an--;
please delete lines 25 - 27; and

between lines 27 and 28, please insert --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 7, between lines 16 and 17, please insert --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
THE DRAWINGS--.

On page 8, before line 1, please insert --DETAILED DESCRIPTION--.